



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - November 7, 2002

- ***In the West***, precipitation is spreading inland across the ***Pacific Coast States***, benefiting drought-stressed pastures and winter grains, and signaling the delayed onset of the 2002-03 wet season.
- ***On the Plains***, warmer weather (today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 60 to 75 degrees F) favors renewed winter wheat development. Soil moisture shortages are limiting wheat establishment on the ***northern and central High Plains***, but dry weather favors a return to fieldwork, including cotton, sorghum, and peanut harvesting and final winter wheat planting, on the ***southern Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, mild, dry weather favors an acceleration of fieldwork, including the ***upper Midwest's*** frequently delayed corn and soybean harvests.
- ***In the South***, fieldwork delays persist from ***southern and eastern Texas to the Delta***, despite a return to dry weather. In the ***lower Mississippi Valley***, a limited amount of winter wheat planting and soybean and cotton harvesting is resuming in better-drained fields.

Outlook: A dramatic shift in the jet stream will result in warmer, drier weather over much of the ***central and eastern U.S.***, although isolated rain and snow showers are possible in the ***upper Midwest and New England*** through week's end. Significant changes are also forecast in the ***West***, as a series of Pacific storm systems will provide locally heavy rain and high-elevation snow to the Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain States. In addition, periods of high winds are likely from the ***Pacific Coast to the High Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 12-16 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and across the ***eastern one-third of the nation***, while below-normal precipitation is forecast for the ***Great Basin and central Plains***. Warmer-than-normal weather is expected across the ***northern Plains, Northeast, and west of the Rockies***, while below-normal temperatures are forecast in the ***middle and lower Mississippi Valley***.

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